(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on Table of the House.

Unseasonal rain in South India

3400. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR:
SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE:
SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:
DR. V. MAITREYAN:
SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an assessment has been made of the loss caused to crops, life and property due to unseasonal rain in southern States of the country during the month of March in this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and commodity-wise; and

(c) the rescue operations, special economic package and the Central assistance given to the States, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Home Affairs is concerned in the matter and necessary information is being collected from them.

Ban on export of milk and milk products

3401. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the export of milk and milk products is still being banned by Government;

(b) if so, when it is likely to be lifted;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has lost heavily on the earning of the foreign exchange account due to this ban;

(d) if so, the estimated revenue loss due to this measure; and

(e) what is the total annual production of milk and milk products in the country during the last five years and the total consumption during this period and what is the total exports of these products during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per prevailing Foreign Trade Policy, export of milk and milk product is free. The prohibition on export of milk and milk products imposed *vide* notification No. 45 dated 9th February 2007 was effective till 30.09.2007 only.

(c) and (d) The available information on export realization is as given below.

Year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (Apr. to June, 07)
Total Value (in Rs. Lacs)	67668.24	43613.04	4093.75

(e) (i) The position of production and consumption is as given below:

Year	Milk Production (in million tonnes)
2002-03	86.2
2003-04	88.1
2004-05	92.5
2005-06	97.1
2006-07	100.9

Year	Per capita monthly consumption of milk (in litre)*	
	Urban	Rural
1993-94	4.89	3.94
1999-00	5.10	3.79
2004-05	5.11	3.87

*Based on National Sample Survey 61st round held in 2004-05.

(ii) Export of milk and milk products for the last five years is as under:—

Year	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-08 (April-June 07)
Total Export (MT)	9590.39	45805.29	75551.4	45585	4331.42

Improvement in agricultural techniques to make holding remunerative

†3402. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the average holding of agricultural land has come down 1.3 hectare in the country;

(b) if not, the facts thereof;

(c) whether there is need for comprehensive improvement in present technique used in agriculture in order to make the said holding remunerative;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and whether Government has taken any action to bring said improvement; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and how would it be used by the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) As per Agriculture Census, the average size of agricultural land holding in the country has decreased from 1.41 hectare in 1995-96 to 1.33 hectare in 2000-01.

(c) to (e) In order to make small/average land holdings more remunerative several location specific and cost effective techniques have been developed like water harvesting, micro irrigation, in situ water conservation, vermi-composting, bio-fertilizers, bio-pesticides and simple farm tools and implements. These are demonstrated and propagated through various schemes/programmes such as National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Promotion and Strengthening of Agricultural Mechanization through Training, Testing and Demonstration etc. Government is also promoting land consolidation, contract farming, Farmers' Group/Cooperative formation to make small land holders more effective in marketing of their produce.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.